

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-13 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5 and 7-13 stand rejected.

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to clarify applicant's claimed invention and use consistent terms with, for example, claims 7 and 12. The amendments are based on claims 7 and 12 and applicant's specification. No new matter is entered.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-5, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. The claims have been clarified as pointed out above. The frames have been clarified to claim what was inherently recited in the claims. Also "another terminal" is defined and pointed to later in the claim as "said other terminal." It is respectfully requested the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-5 and 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nassehi et al. (U.S. 5,210,750).

In the Office Action FIFO 41 is equated with applicant's claimed reservation management table. The external request is equated to the adding of timing for a next frame and the internal request is equated to reserving the timing for a terminal to transmit a next frame. In the reference, col. 6, starting at line 55, the reference states the request queue FIFO 41 contains the access request counts as seen by the respective station or generated by itself, in the correct sequential order.

Nassehi discloses a communication system in which head end 27 (see Fig. 1B) periodically transmits a cycle frame (see Figs. 2A, 2B) composed of a cycle frame header and N number of time-slots onto a bus.

Nassehi makes clear in Figs. 2A-2D and col. 4, lines 1-7 the slots are a fixed length. Also described is that the FIFO store sequential numbers representing the requests (ABSTRACT, col. 6, lines 34-44).

Each node station connected to the bus stores a transmission turn of all the node stations in a FIFO storage 41 (see Fig. 3) and transmits data onto the bus in its own turn.

Nassehi teaches fixed slots timing, one frame per slot, and a request count for the number of frames for a terminal. The FIFO in Nassehi holds the request count in a FIFO position. In other words a FIFO position can hold the number of slots requested. (col. 11, lines 22-40).

In applicant's claim the number of addresses represents the time for transmission. In applicant's invention one address doesn't hold a number of slots requested as in Nassehi.

Unlike Nassehi, the claimed invention stores data transmission timing of all the terminals. That is to say, the claimed invention does not store the number of transmission turns, but stores data transmission timing of all the terminals.

For example applicant's claim 1 includes: adding timing information as to a timing of transmitting a next frame to a current frame;

Also claim 1 includes providing a timing reservation management table and a timer which measures time at certain interval of time and outputs the time as an address of said table;

The Office Action points to the FIFO, however Nassehi states the FIFO is a standard FIFO (sequential request queue, see col. 2, lines 9-12). The operation of the FIFO is described at col. 6, line 28 – col. 7, line 11 and Fig. 3. A position of a FIFO holds the number of turns requested.

There is no description in Nassehi of reserving both the timing A of receiving said next frame from said another terminal and the timing B of transmitting a next frame from its own

terminal by recording "frame transmission by other terminal" and "frame transmission by its own" respectively in address of said timing reservation management table, the number of addresses being determined based upon said timing A and the timing B; and step of transmitting the next frame onto a shared transmission line when said timing B of transmitting said next frame from its own terminal comes.

In addition, Nassehi does not disclose features of claim 9 that are: a transmitting timing information adding portion for ...; a timing extractor for ...; a timing reservation management table for ...; a timer which measures time at certain interval of time and outputs the time as an address of said table; a table management portion for recording "frame transmission by other terminal" and "frame transmission by its own" respectively in address of said timing reservation management table, the address being determined based upon said timing A and timing B; and a timing controller for ...

It is respectfully requested the rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 4, 5 and 11

The reference states the frames are fixed size. Therefore the reference does not suggest the feature recited in these claims and it is respectfully requested the rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 8 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nassehi et al. Its admitted that each of the features in these two claims are not shown in the cited reference. Its asserted that it would have been obvious to implement these cited limitations.


It respectfully submitted that the reference only states the frames are a fixed size. In addition adjusting some transmit or receive clock may or may not be obvious with regard to the type of network, however applicant is claimed timer relates to providing addresses to a reservation table. It is respectfully requested that if such features as in applicant's claim are

obvious then a reference should be readily available and should be provided to allow applicant to judge such assertions and motivation for combination.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


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